



CALPEEK

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17th A.D. UPDATE: DEMO MACHADO BEATS RECALL.

Editor's note: In what can only be described as a *total blow out*, Assemblyman Mike Machado of Linden and his Demo (and some GOP) allies crushed a recall effort aimed at removing him from his 17th A.D. job in the Stockton area. Here's our update & analysis...

...As soon as the absentee ballots were counted, it was over. In fact, the margin of victory only increased as the results from regular voting (pushed by a big Demo GOTV effort) made it clear the recall was a failure, as many sources had predicted...

...Unofficial results show Machado's NO side got about 65% of the absentee votes and overall his margin of victory was 63% vs. 37%. In raw numbers, the NO side got 31,780 compared to 18,706 for those favoring the recall. This was the 3rd legislative recall since April of 1994. The other recalls were aimed at former Demo State Sen. David Roberti (unsuccessful) and former GOP Assemblyman Paul Horcher (successful). A 4th recall aimed at GOP Speaker Doris Allen of Cypress is now in the signature-gathering stage...

...It was a nice win for Demos and for consultant Richie Ross, who very early on hired a campaign accountant to make sure that every dime spent was properly accounted for with receipts, etc. Why? Although sources aren't sure what the NO side spent, estimates run anywhere from \$800,000 to \$900,000, but it could be more. Under Calif. law, if the subject of a recall defeats the recall, that person can request **reimbursement** from the State. And you'd better believe that Machado will request it. Bet your first born...

...**Political fallout.** A July 21st letter from GOP Assemblyman Bernie Richter of Chico written to recall supporter Larry Bowler(R-Sacto) perhaps says it best: "*We (the GOP Caucus) are now looking at an un-*

mitigated disaster that not even the CA Demo Party could have organized and executed...In other words, we have put in motion a situation where the Democrats immunize and armor plate their incumbent (Machado) and get all their money back." That pretty much sums up the situation. Machado's big win provides some protection heading into the '96 election, in a district that may have a Demo registration advantage, but tends to be very conservative. As for the Republican Caucus, most members kept their distance from the recall, except for Bowler. He could be in trouble. Ditto BoE member Dean Andal(R-Stockton), the other key recall supporter. They (plus GOP State Sen. Rob Hurtt who also supported the recall), may have to answer taxpayers for causing this wasteful expenditure on a recall that wasn't justified. Stay tuned...

ASSEMBLY GOP CAUCUS WARS: PRINGLE WINS BATTLE FOR MAJORITY LEADER OVER AGUIAR.

Editor's note: The recent win by GOP Assemblyman Curt Pringle of Garden Grove for the number #2 job in the CA Assembly is seen by many CALPEEK sources as an extension of the ongoing battle that we've called *The Speakership Wars*. Here's our analysis...

...By a 24-15 vote, Pringle defeated Fred Aguiar of Chino for the post of GOP Floor Leader/Majority Leader. It's unclear how much real power Pringle will have, given the way the GOP Caucus is divided. The GOP Floor Leader/Majority Leader appointed by Assembly Speaker Doris Allen is Assemblyman Jan Goldsmith of Poway. And as we all know, Pringle and Allen are not on speaking terms --- with Pringle being one of the key leaders in the effort to recall Allen from her 67th A.D. post (see recall update story)...

...What does Pringle's election by the GOP Assembly Caucus mean? There's only one way to view it: had the GOP Caucus elected Aguiar (or even 3rd candidate

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Bruce Thompson of Temecula) over Pringle, that might have sent a signal that GOP lawmakers had had enough of the *inter-caucus feuding* and wanted to move in a new direction that would prepare the Republicans for 1996. Pringle's election represents *the same old, same old* --- and no end to the Allen recall...

...What were the keys to Pringle's win? 1) lots of arm twisting by Pringle's Orange Co. allies; 2) Jim Brulte's decision late in the game to back Pringle; and 3) a possible mistake by forces loyal to Speaker Allen...

...The arm twisting was a given. As for Brulte's decision to back Pringle over long-time friend and political ally Fred Aguiar, that was a major blow to Aguiar and occurred *after* CALPEEK's deadline. Prior to that time, Brulte told CALPEEK he was neutral in the battle. And that is what Aguiar thought until he got a call from Brulte on or about Aug. 18th. Sources describe Aguiar's personal feeling toward Brulte as ranging from *hurt* to real *bitterness*. CALPEEK spoke with Aguiar and he used the terms "*very disappointed and somewhat misled*" in describing his feelings toward the former GOP Leader. A source reminded CALPEEK about a quote from former U.S. Rep. Mo Udall(D) of Arizona, who said, "*What's the difference between a Cactus and a Caucus? With a Cactus, the pricks are on the outside.*"...

...As for a possible mistake in strategy by Allen's supporters, there was the belief by some Allen strategists that if they backed Thompson on the first ballot - rather than Aguiar - Thompson might have had a *better shot at defeating Pringle*. We'll never know. But had Thompson won, the recall against Allen would have been badly hurt, if not killed. That won't happen now...

...Bottomline: The real winner in all this continued infighting may just be the Demos under Speaker Emeritus Willie Brown. Put another way, one GOP source reminded us about William Golding's novel, *The Lord of the Flies*. Does it apply to the GOP Assembly Caucus? Perhaps...

...FYI: On your *must reading list*, add the Aug. 24th column by George Skelton of the L.A. Times. It's called, *A Hell Week That Seems to Have No End*. It's all about the political problems faced by Speaker Doris Allen. Stay tuned...

CARD CLUB MADNESS: MORE CITIES LOOK AT BALLOT MEASURES TO BEAT 1996 GAMING BAN.

Add Colton, population 43,000 in San Bernardino Co., to the list of cities who will hold a special election this year to beat the 1996 card club election ban. Although the date is not locked in stone, the city council has tentatively decided on a special election for Dec. 12th. Edging closer to holding a special election is the city of Lemon Grove in San Diego Co. and Hawaiian Gardens in L.A. Co. In Hawaiian Gardens, there is a petition being circulated for such a election. Since the city is fairly small, only 3,300 registered voters, it only takes 536 valid signatures to qualify. Also looking at a special election on a card club is the City of San Bernardino. The city council will continue its discussion about a card club on Sept. 5th. FYI: The Santa Clara card club Bay 101 has pulled the plug on its opposition to a competing card club in the City of South S.F., but not before consultant Jerry Westlund hit the voters with two(2) pieces of direct mail. Sources report Westlund has been hired by a group in Ontario to run the NO campaign in that city's upcoming special election Nov. 7th. Stay tuned...

67th A.D. RECALL: RUMORS FLY, AMBUSHING IN FASHION AS SPEAKER ALLEN FIGHTS RECALL.

Editor's note: This past week, GOP Assembly Speaker Doris Allen held her first formal news conference with the Capitol Press Corps in which she stated: 1) she would not step down from her Speakership job; and 2) she said she will defeat the recall aimed at removing her from her 67th A.D. post. Here's our latest update...

...Aside from Allen's press conference in Sacto, this past week's recall events were mostly *rumors*. The spins *flew* hot and heavy from both sides. The anti-Allen side said there was a major firing in the Allen camp. FACT: Allen ally Barbara Stone did resign her post with the Speaker's office in Orange Co. because of a dispute with Allen COS Jerry Felando (described by a GOP source as "*Don Rickles without the charm*"), but she's still on Allen's side and will help her with a major fundraiser in Orange Co. The pro-Allen side said that recall consultant Dave Gilliard and recall petition consultant Mike Arno had been fired. FACT: both say they're still on the job...

...In terms of total recall signatures gathered, as of 8/14 the recall had collected 16,035. On 8/21 the recall

turned in about 3,100 additional signatures (unofficial estimate only). The new batch of signatures came off the recall's 2nd major mailing to 67th A.D. voters, this one from the Orange Co. GOP Central Cmt. Sources anticipate at least one more mass mailing. The recall drive is hoping to have the required 26,000 signatures by Sept. 28th. If the recall qualifies by that date, Gov. Wilson could call the recall election for mid-December. FYI: as reported last week, Michael Huffington popped for \$5,000 to help the recall. The 5-Gs was described as a "down payment."...

...The Politics of Ambushing. The Aug. 16th issue of **The Doris Watch** (anti-Allen) - with the headline: The One-Two Punch, had all the usual stabs & buzz words aimed at Allen and some of her supporters. It called pro-Allen Assembly staffers John Stoos, Bill Cardoza and Jamie Langius *crypto-Democrats* and had stuff like, "*The Doris Show is about to go on tour with Elvis and Jerry Garcia.*" Only one problem. According to Allen recall manager Jeff Flint, the Aug. 16th issue of The Doris Watch was a **fake**. Hummm. Stay tuned...

PROP. 140 UNDER SIEGE: ASSEMBLYMAN BATES SUES TO OVERTURN LEGISLATIVE TERM LIMITS.

Editor's note: Demo Assemblyman Tom Bates of Berkeley and 5 of his 14th A.D. constituents filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court --- claiming that Prop. 140, CA's *Term Limit Law* for statewide & legislative office-holders, is unconstitutional. Here's our brief update and analysis...

...Oral arguments will be heard at 10:30 a.m., Sept. 8th before a U.S. District Court in Oakland. Bates has hired the S.F.-based law firm of Remcho, Johansen & Purcell, while the defendant, SOS Bill Jones and the State of CA, will be represented by the CA Attorney General's office...

...By way of background, voters approved Prop. 140 in 1990. It was declared **constitutional** in a CA State Supreme Court decision (Legislature vs. Eu) and the U.S. Supreme Court decided NOT to review this case. The U.S. Supreme Court did review a congressional term limit law and declared it **unconstitutional**. So there have been decisions on both sides of the *broad term limits issue*, but in very different cases. Many of our sources think Bates' chances of winning are at best slim --- but one can never tell...

...As it was explained to CALPEEK, the key argument by Bates is that unlike some other States, Calif's term limit law has an absolute ban on an lawmaker ever seeking legislative office again, once he or she has been *termed out*. Many of the other 22 states which have legislative term limits allow lawmakers to run again, after being out of office a certain amount of time...

...FYI: There are many insiders who think CA's experiment with legislative term limits has been a *disaster*, witness what is now taking place in the State Assembly. Many sources think the instability in the Assembly is directly attributable to the 6-year limit on legislative service in the lower house. And it is this instability which has caused the CA Constitution Revision Commission to recommend a single 121-member State Senate, serving 3, four-year terms, with legislative sessions limited to 6 months. Stay tuned...

CAMPAIGN '96: ADDING MORE NAMES TO THE MIX.

Editor's note: Here's another update on who's IN and who's OUT for 1996 U.S. House and Legislative races...

☑ **27th C.D.** - Mark your calendars for Aug. 29th. That's the day U.S. Rep. Carlos Moorhead(R-Glendale) will announce his decision regarding 1996. A news conference is set for 10 a.m. the congressman's Glendale office. CALPEEK's guess: he pulls the plug and announces his retirement...

☑ **4th A.D.** - Kind of a shocker in this GOP primary battle to replace Assemblyman David Knowles(R-Cameron Park), who is *termed out* in '96. Out of nowhere surfaces Calaveras businessman Rico Oller, who ended the reporting period with \$131,113 COH, way ahead of his rivals. Kirk Uhler had \$50,774 COH; Steve Sax had \$38,376 COH; and Bob Laurie had \$28,657 COH. FYI: Sax has gotten some very bad publicity over the summer. A June 25th headline in the Auburn Journal reads: *Divorce battle may dog candidate*. The subhead reads: *Sax custody dispute unleashes ugly charges*. We don't have time for all the stuff in the article, but the lead paragraph says there are allegations against Sax of verbal & physical abuse. Not the kind of stuff that helps in a campaign, but a source for Sax say the allegations are *untrue*...

NATIONWIDE IMPACT OF CCRI TO BE DISCUSSED.

The national implications of the CA Civil Rights Initiative(CCRI) will be discussed by Larry Arnn, CCRI chair and president of The Claremont Inst., 6:30 p.m., Sept. 12, Regency Club, West L.A. The event is sponsored by the West L.A. Lincoln Club. For info & RSVPs, ☎ Sarah Kane at (818)345-2310...

SOME INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CALPEEK.

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CALPEEK's INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

◆ **Clinton Visits Calif.** - President Bill Clinton will visit Calif. on Labor Day, Sept. 4th. He'll start out with a speech at the dedication of a new state university at Ft. Ord; travel to a Labor Day picnic in Alameda Co.; and finish off the day in Fresno...

◆ **Dirty Harry Goes to D.C. or Sacto?** - If it's not true, then it's the best damned rumor of the summer, but one well-placed CALPEEK source says that former Carmel Mayor and Oscar-winning actor/director Clint Eastwood is giving some thought toward a run for the U.S. Senate or the CA governorship in 1998...

◆ **Lungren's Dear Friend Letter** - The 1998 stampede to replace CA Gov. Pete Wilson is already on --- at least on the GOP side, as a *Dear Friends* fundraising letter from Dan & Bobbi Lungren has just hit in GOP homes throughout Calif. --- and probably in other parts of the U.S. as well. Lungren doesn't even bother to mention Michael Huffington, a possible rival on the GOP side, but does take note of Demo Lt. Gov. Gray Davis and his campaign warchest...

◆ **CSEA In-House Battle** - For those who haven't heard, CA State Employees Assn. (CSEA) is embroiled in a major in-house battle, with the CSEA-PAC Board on one side vs. the rest of the CSEA officers & board. The relationship between the PAC and the CSEA

leadership is so strained that the CSEA evicted the PAC committee from the CSEA's "O" Street HQ. The PAC turned around and filed a lawsuit against CSEA. CALPEEK sources suspect that **money** may be at the heart of this dispute. From the 100,000 members, the CSEA collects about \$37,000 per month in political dues. In addition, the PAC, which is set up as a separate corporation, gets about \$32,000 per month from 18,000 individuals who belong to the CSEA-PAC and give \$1-2 per month. We'll keep you posted...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: Emmy-winning TV writer-producer Danny Arnold died Aug. 19 of heart failure. The 70-year-old Arnold was the creator/producer of the popular TV series "Barney Miller" and numerous other TV shows. Early in his long career he was the head comedy writer for Dean Martin & Jerry Lewis. Arnold also was a political activist and contributor to various causes and candidates, including CA Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D). R.I.P...

● Another sad note: Tom Anderson, the director of GTE's PA unit, died Aug. 17 of a heart attack. He was 51. Anderson was a key fundraiser for KCRW Radio's "Which Way L.A." show and for KCET-TV's "Life & Times" show. R.I.P...

● L.A. Co. AFL-CIO leader James Wood has been appointed by Mayor Riordan to the L.A. City Recreation & Parks Commission...

● Jann Taber has been named press secretary for CA State Assembly Majority Floor Leader Jan Goldsmith (R-Poway)...

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